

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, March 16, 1999
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Ocotillo Conference Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chairman	Steve Hancock, Mesa
*Mark Mansfield, ADOT	Tracy Stevens, Peoria
*Christopher Miller, Gilbert	*John Siefert, Phoenix
Susan Bookspan, Glendale	Suzanne Day for Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
*Larry Martinez, Goodyear	Scott Hamilton for Amy MacAulay, Scottsdale
Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park	*Eric Iwersen, Tempe
*Aaron Iverson, Maricopa County	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

John Farry, MAG	Penny Allee, Southwest Gas
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1. Call to Order

Chairman Pat McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

2. Approval of the February 16, 1999 Meeting Minutes

Steve Hancock moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 1999 and Tracy Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Suzanne Day discussed activities related to Valley Bike Week which occurs April 11 - 18. She said that reflectors, posters and brochures were available to help promote local and/or regional events. Bike to Work day is scheduled for April 16th and will include the bike to BOB event.

Penny Allee noted that the Arizona Chamber is again sponsoring the Arizona Golf Classic on May 21st of this year. She noted that it is being billed this year as the Arizona Golf and Cycling Classic and will include a bicycle ride from McCormick Ranch to Taliesan West.

4. The Role of Bicycling in Meeting Welfare to Work Needs

Carol Kratz, the MAG Human Services Program Manager, was introduced to discuss the relationship of federal changes to welfare laws which require welfare recipients to move into the workforce. Carol noted that transportation is a major issue for welfare clients in transitioning back to work. While bicycling would be difficult for many welfare clients due to trip chaining and transporting children to day care, it should still be considered in the mix of options considered.

Carol showed a pie chart which illustrated where the earnings of low-income workers are applied and the small amount that is left over after paying rent and buying groceries. The transportation barriers that exist for persons transitioning into the workforce include limited bus service that exists in the region and the relatively high cost of purchasing and maintaining a vehicle. Carol showed an illustration of the geographic mismatch between some employment in the region and existing bus service. She concluded with a description of a project submitted to the Transportation Review Committee to be federally funded. The project would establish a brokerage service which would match transportation to the needs of welfare clients. Carol distributed information on the graphics and the brokerage project.

Steve Hancock inquired about the availability of subsidies for child care. Carol noted that subsidies are available, however, it is still not enough to make a big difference. She noted that the development of transit centers which include day care centers would address some of the problems. Susan Bookspan commented that bicycles can serve some of the need. Although the problems associated with bicycling to 2nd and 3rd shift jobs can create safety problems. Mike Cartsonis commented that the location of affordable housing is one of the issues that needs to be addressed.

The Chairman inquired if anything could be done to make bicycling a more viable alternative. The Committee discussed that bike safety and child carriers for bicycles might be a couple of alternatives.

5. Status Report on FYs 1999, 2000 and 2001 Federally Funded Bicycle Projects

Staff provided an update on the status of federally funded projects as outlined in the attachment to the agenda.

6. Update on Federally Funded Bicycle Project Selection Process

John Farry noted that the Management Committee took action to recommend the approval of the bicycle projects included in the agenda attachment on March 10, 1999. The recommendation is now going to the Regional Council for final approval. The Chairman noted that a Phoenix project was deleted at the request of their representative to the Transportation Review Committee which freed up money to include additional projects.

7. Advance Design of Bicycle Projects

John Farry reminded members of the importance of beginning the federal design process for bicycle project designs which have been moved forward in the TIP so that they can be obligated in this federal

fiscal year. Susan Bookspan and Steve Hancock both expressed concern with the tediousness of the federal environmental process. Steve noted that Mesa had almost completed the design on one of their projects, but ADOT told them to stop. It was also noted that Phoenix and Tempe are self-certified for the federal process and may be of some help in project development.

8. FHWA Comments on Bikeway Projects in the FY 2000-2004 TIP

John Farry noted that MAG had received a letter from ADOT that explained the importance of bicycle projects being transportation related to be eligible for federal funding. The FHWA letter was included in the agenda.

9. Items for Future Work Programs

The Task Force discussed items for future work programs. Steve Hancock noted that funding for a Regional Off-Street System plan was included in the next MAG UPWP. He noted that having an off-street plan in place will help projects to attain funding as they would be part of a coordinated plan.

Mike Cartsonis commented that RBTF should team up with the MAG Pedestrian Working Group to encourage land uses which promote pedestrian and bicycle use. Steve noted that there has been concern expressed that joining the groups might result in pedestrian issues suffering at the expense of bikes. Susan offered that the two groups might meet together periodically to discuss mutual issues.

A discussion occurred on the annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Conference conducted in the Fall. The Governor's Bicycle Task Force no longer exists and the need to find another sponsor was discussed. Further discussion of the issue was requested at the next meeting of the RBTF. It was also suggested that ADOT and the Arizona Planning Association might be contacted for financial participation. The Committee noted that Maureen, Eric and Susan have participated in this event in the past and would be a good resource for planning the event.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. in the Octotillo Room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.